

I. Introduction to Psalm 32

Today, turn to Psalms 32. As we look at Psalms 32, you are going to see that this is also a psalm of David. It is a tribulation psalm. As we come down through this, we will see David in his relationship with God and the fellowship he has with Him, and his thankfulness for all that God has done for him. So let us read it together here in chapter 32, verses 1-11.

Psalms 32:1-11

- 1. Blessed is [he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered.*
- 2. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile.*
- 3. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.*
- 4. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.*
- 5. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*
- 6. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.*
- 7. Thou [art] my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.*
- 8. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*
- 9. Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.*
- 10. Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.*
- 11. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all [ye that are] upright in heart.*

II. Old Testament Salvation vs. New Testament Salvation

First off, the thing that I want you to see here is a reference to Old Testament salvation. A couple of Thursday nights ago, I laid this out completely for you based on a question that somebody had sent in. David starts by saying, “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*” We know that the Old Testament system of salvation is not secure. It is not like

anything that we have. I gave you some verses the other night, Ezekiel 3:20 and Ezekiel 18:24, which are very clear that a man can have God's righteousness and then lose it because of his transgressing and walking away from the Lord. It is not like what we have today.

You will see in Hebrews 9:15, and this is where it kind of explains it all because the terminology can be confusing if you do not understand the whole complete system of your Bible. You will see from Hebrews 9:15 that their sin and their transgressions are covered by the blood of bulls and goats, but they cannot be redeemed. It cannot be taken away. That is the difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament.

David says in verse 2, *“Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”* Here again, we see the Old Testament righteousness. It is going to be conditional. It is not like you and I have. Their sin and their transgressions are forgiven, but Exodus 34:7 says it is forgiven without the clearing of the guilty. It cannot be taken away. It says, *“their iniquity is not imputed,”* but Hebrews 10:4 says that their sin is not taken away. It is not the same.

When a person does not understand the whole concept of the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, this is when guys who really do not know much about the Bible come up with the idea that salvation in the Old Testament and the New Testament are the same. Several Thursday nights ago, I gave you the Bible on it and we walked through it completely how that nobody in the Old Testament was looking forward to the cross. Of course, the great passage on that is found in 1 Peter 1:9-11, which shows you completely how erroneous that idea is. It is only put out by guys who really don't understand their Bible.

III. Our Life is to be One of Fruit Bearing

Now look at verses 3 through 11. Again, we see the hand of God in David's life historically. Israel, they are going through the tribulation, doctrinally. But then your life and my life, as we struggle through our issues and our lives, and we now see the key to God taking care of us. Look at verses 4 and 5. *“For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.”*

Then you have the word Selah. I have told you before, this is only found in the King James 1611 Authorized Version, the word Selah. It is found throughout the book of Psalms. The word Selah means "to rest." By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, when you find Selah in a passage, the passage is always going to be in the context of the second coming going into the millennium. This is one of the great keys in Bible study.

We see that in Israel's dry season throughout Old Testament history and, of course, into the New Testament, they are likened to barren ground. When Jesus came out, He saw a fig tree that had no figs on it in the book of Matthew, and He cursed that fig tree for it being barren. That fig tree is a picture of the nation of Israel. Back in Isaiah 53:2, where it talks about the Lord Jesus Christ coming to the nation of Israel, the first coming of Christ, it says this about Christ: *“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant.”* That is Jesus Christ growing up before God as a tender plant. Then it says this, *“and as a root out of a dry ground.”* That is the nation of Israel. Israel is

in a drought of spiritual apostasy. No fruit, no moisture, just dry, barren ground. So, this is Israel's condition doctrinally. Historically, it is David's condition, but here again for you and for me, like Israel, like David, we all will have our times of drought in our Christian lives.

Our life is to be one of fruit bearing. You all know that. We plant the seed of the Word of God on fertile ground of men's hearts. You saw that in the slide presentation this morning that the boys gave you, that is exactly what they're doing in Scotland and in Poland.

The history of Europe is incredibly more amazing than the history of the United States as far as Christianity is concerned. When you see those places over there where the people were martyred, and you see the places where salvation, in its infant form through the King James Bible was brought to it, and now you see that Europe is in an amoral condition. You saw the statistics. Nobody cares anything about God. It has all moved over to America, and as happens in Europe, so happens in time in America, and you are seeing America move into that same dry apostasy that not only Israel had, but Europe has. It is quite incredible to look at those countries as well as the continent of Europe and see what God did do and what is not being done now.

➤ The Parable of the Sower

In Matthew 13, you have the great parable called the parable of the sower. The Bible says in that parable that a sower went forth to sow the Word of God. The picture is somebody taking seed, which is the Word of God, and sowing it in the hearts of men. When you read down through that, you find three types of rejections that, when you give somebody the Word of God, why it doesn't make a difference in their life.

1. Some Seeds Fell by the Way Side

The first one he says, "*some seeds fell by the way side.*" He put the seed out and some fell by the way side. The Bible says the fowls came down and devoured it. Now, fowls in the Bible are pictures of unclean spirits. It is a picture of somebody putting out the Word of God, maybe to a Jehovah's Witness, maybe to a Roman Catholic, maybe to a Mormon. They are so satanic in their indoctrination that before the Word of God can ever do anything, the unclean spirits take it out of the heart of man.

2. Some Fell upon Stony Places

Then it says, "*some fell on stony places, where they had not much earth.*" That will be the hardness of man's heart, that he hardens himself against the things of God, and the Word of God can make no penetration.

3. Some Fell Among Thorns

Then it says he sowed some seed and "*some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.*" That will be a picture also of false religion or higher Christian education. A young man will go someplace, who wants the Bible, believes the Bible, wants to get the Bible, but he gets choked and never gets the Word of God.

4. But Other Fell into Good Ground, and Brought Forth Fruit

But then he says that “*some fell into good ground,*” fertile ground, moist ground, the right time of sowing. The seed now bears fruit. He says, “*some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*” The Christian life should never be a dry land.

There are three keys to a plant growing in your garden, in your yard, or wherever. Yet those same three keys are what we need to have as the plan of Jesus Christ to bear fruit and sow the seed.

1. **You have to have a right amount of sunlight.** That will be the right amount of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life.
2. **You have to have the right amount of rain.** That will be a picture of the Word of God. You have to have the right amount of Jesus Christ, the Sun. You have to have the right amount of the Word of God, the rain.
3. **But then you have to have the right atmosphere.** That’s you understanding that God has given us a season. Apple trees do not bear apples in February. You have a season for your fruit bearing. You have a season for being fertile, being able to put the seed out. Those are the three aspects that we have to deal with to be fertile and get the Word of God out.

Yet you will find in 1 Corinthians 3:6 that there are three parts to soul winning.

1. He talks about somebody **sowing**. That is putting out the Word of God.
2. He talks about somebody after they sowed, **watering**. That is a picture of our prayer life, praying for that person.
3. Then he talks about somebody’s **reaping**. That is the person getting saved because of the prayer and because of the sowing.

The key to our staying fruitful and having a fruitful ground in our lives, the moisture of the Word of God that makes the ground fertile, is found in verses 5 through 6. He says, “*I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.*”

IV. Staying Clean Before the Lord

The key here as we read verses 5 and 6 is simply this: us staying clean before the Lord. The word Selah, found in verses 5 and 6, again shows us that we are not just dealing with David's personal accountability to God, but to the nation of Israel and the second coming of Christ. In Daniel 9:4-15, Daniel makes his great prayer for the nation of Israel, and he basically almost prays the same thing. Then the historical and the doctrinal application, we will see the nation of Israel. For you and for me, it is a picture of you and I staying clean before the Lord.

Last week I gave you Isaiah 6:1-5, that when you really see the Lord high and lifted up, holy before all of the universe, Isaiah said, “when I saw him high and lifted up, I said to myself, Woe is me.” When you really build your relationship with the Lord and you really understand the importance of staying clean with God, confessing the sin in our lives, we realize that when you

really see who He is, the number one thing that it does before anything else, it shows us who we really are.

You will note how he lists four areas in our lives that will break that fellowship and then we become barren: a dry land like the nation of Israel. Four areas of our lives that he mentions here that we need to always keep before us and always bring before God and not try to hide them from God. Most of God's people, as good as they may be, do not really understand this concept. They look at their lives and their struggles and their problems, but they do not see it broken down like it is broken down here. The Bible defines each one of these four areas and gives us the exactness of what they should be and what they mean in our life.

V. Four Areas in our Lives that will Break our Fellowship Causing us to Become a Barren Dry Land

1.) Transgressions

First, he says the word transgressions. Now, **transgressions will be our overstepping the bounds that God has set for our lives.** I have showed you before that when God established the nations, I took you back in Deuteronomy 32, I took you over to Acts 17. I showed you that when God created man and created the nations, that He set the boundaries for man. **Those boundaries literally were given to man, as the Bible will tell us, so they could find God. The problem with nations that will cause every issue in life on planet earth will be war. It will simply be man getting out of the bounds that God has established.** History has records of thousands and thousands of wars and battles and conflicts. The longest war that ever took place was in 1651 and lasted for 335 years. In 1337, you had The Hundred Years' War. In 1568, The Eighty Years' War. In 1618, The Thirty Years' War. In 1454, the Thirteen Years' War. In 1688, The nine Years' War. In 1756, The Seven Years' War. We had our own Revolutionary War. We had the Civil War. We had World War One, World War Two. We had Korea, then Vietnam, then the Gulf War. Now there is a war in Iran. Hundreds of wars, hundreds of thousands of battlefields. Every one of them will have one thing in common: a nation getting out of the bounds that God has established for them and attacking somebody else to control them and take what they have. That is the issue.

When we talk about transgressing against God, we are talking about overstepping the bounds. Now we can talk about the nations in history all we want, but that is exactly the same thing we as God's people have. You know why God gave us boundaries? **You know why God gave us bounds in the Christian life? Places that we should not overstep. It is the same reason that He gave bounds to the nation: that we might find God.** You want to know where you find the Lord or you want to build a relationship with God? You sure do not find Him outside the boundaries.

➤ Biblical Principles will Always Set the Right Boundaries

You will notice around here that we hammer Bible principles pretty hard. The reason being, biblical principles will always set the right boundaries. I do not know of anything in life, the Christian life, probably life in general, that you do not have to have boundaries. I know when

you get married, marriage has boundaries. The husband has a relationship with the wife, the wife to the husband. The marriage itself, in a biblical sense, must stay within those bounds. The bounds are laid out by the principles. Principles of the Word of God will always define the boundaries.

When we talk about training up your children, we are going to have a class on that, with all the new kids and all the new parents that we have got. The training of children: there will be no training of your children without you establishing boundaries for those kids. Parents who do not establish the boundaries, and they let them do whatever they want to do and go wherever they want to go—when it is 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, it is cute, but when it is 19, 20, and 21, it is a disaster.

There are boundaries in any relationship. There are some people you allow to be closer than others. There are boundaries and principles on learning your Bible. Everything in life will have its boundaries. You go from state to state; there is a state line. That is a boundary. We have got a street named after it over here. City to city, country to country. You saw our guys going from England to Scotland to Poland. Three different boundaries. You set boundaries in everything that you do. You set boundaries for your animals. I have the cutest dog. “Get off the couch!” That is a boundary. You drive down the road; you have a speed limit. That is a boundary. School zones are 25 miles an hour. Freeways are about 65. Some places like going to the airport, you can go about 70. Those are boundaries.

➤ Transgressing is Getting Out of Bounds

When you do not follow and use the principles God gives you in your Christian life, in your family, in your marriage, with your kids, you are going to get out of bounds. Out of bounds is nothing more than you and me transgressing. That is what that word means, God's principles in getting out of bounds. Just like with nations, and you have some real conflicts in life, just like the wars that go on around the world because some nation gets out of bounds, you get out of bounds, and your life is going to become warfare. If it goes on long enough, then you will become that dry ground. It will take you out of everything that God has for you.

When you drive home today, I hope you remember this. You have two lanes—one going this way and one going that way. If you get in the wrong lane, you are out of bounds. I live down the street from Raytown South on 83rd Street. You come up out of my house, 83rd Street, and there is 350. 350 is a divided highway. When you come up to the light, you turn right to go into Lee's Summit, or you go across the median 300 yards to another light, and then you turn left into Raytown. There have been four people killed in the last three years at that intersection because they come up to that light and do not see the big sign that says, "Do Not Enter." Instead of crossing over and going up to the next section, they turn there. The last one got hit by a semi head on; killed her dead. You know what her problem was? Out of bounds, out of bounds. In life, when you go in the wrong direction of life, it is going to be a disaster for you, too.

2.) Sin

The second thing he says here in our passage in verse 5 is, “*I acknowledged my sin.*” **Now, sin will be any kind of unrighteous act**. It is defined for us in two places in the Bible. 1 John 5:17

says that “*all unrighteousness is sin.*” Romans 14:23 defines it even a little closer and it says, “*whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*” You see, sin will represent in our lives our personal accountability to a holy God who has holy standards, and sin breaks those standards. It is a sin debt that I got from Adam's fall that makes me a sinner. That sin will be bound up in my flesh. **Where a transgression is stepping out of bounds, sin will be defined in Galatians 5:19, where it talks about the deeds and the works of my flesh that are sin.** Read it sometime. There are 17 manifestations in that passage.

Last week we talked about our flesh, and how that before we got saved, our flesh and our soul were stuck together. The moment you got saved, God separated it. Now there are two. Now you are not stuck to it anymore, but you are stuck with it, and it will give you problems. You remember that when we started Genesis, one of the things I did was give you the seven key teachings out of the book of Genesis. Do you remember what the last one was? The saints will have to deal with their sins. So, 1 John 1:9 says, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” That is how you stay clean with God. You do not transgress. You do not get out of bounds. Then you acknowledge your sin.

3.) Iniquity

Then the third thing he says, “*thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*” There is a difference between iniquity and sin. He says the iniquity of my sin. **Now iniquity will be the basic root source of my sin. That will be defined in the Bible as our heart.** Jeremiah 17:9 says that “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” When you go back to the book of Ezekiel, you find that defined even more. In Ezekiel 28 and again in Isaiah 14, you find the fall of Lucifer out of God's presence who becomes Satan. We find the Bible says in Ezekiel 28:15, that “*Thou wast perfect in thy ways till iniquity was found in thee.*” You know what that iniquity is? Ezekiel 28:17. “*Thine heart was lifted up.*” **Iniquity will always start in our hearts.** It is what we think about. It is what we meditate on. It is what we imagine to do.

You get over to Isaiah 14:13-14, where it talks about Satan in his fallen condition as he stands there looking at God after the iniquity was found in his heart. You find seven times he says, “*I will, I will, I will, I will, I will be like the most High.*” **The seven I wills in his heart that form the iniquity.** When Jeremiah says the heart is desperately wicked, who can know it? The answer is in verse 10. “*I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*” So, in our hearts, the iniquity of my heart is how I try to deceive things. When you have iniquity in your heart like the devil did, you will find that **the root of that iniquity is found in the three things that we do:**

1. The first thing we do is that **we try to deceive God.** We try to pretend we are okay when we are not. Now I can tell you right now, I am not going to spend a lot of time on this one, but it is a waste of time. You do not deceive God. God searches the hearts.
2. The second deception is that when we have iniquity in our hearts **we try to deceive others.** We are not right with God but put up a front and try to pretend we are. Of course, in most cases, if you know the person or know your Bible, that does not work either. So, you are not

going to deceive God, and in most cases, you are not going to deceive the people who know you.

3. But I will tell you who you really will deceive, when iniquity is in your heart in the form of deception. It is you. **You will deceive yourself.**

So, iniquity will be the basic crooked, distorted nature of us as sinners that brings about the deception.

➤ Based on Deuteronomy 11:26-28, We All get What We Deserve

I am a firm believer that we all get what we deserve in life. The Bible is so clear on this. We have not gotten on Thursday nights to the book of Deuteronomy, but we will in time. The book of Deuteronomy is one that I cannot wait to get into. In Deuteronomy 11, you find one of the greatest principles and one of the greatest verses anywhere in the Bible for you and for me. It is found in verse 26. In verse 26 of Deuteronomy 11, the Lord tells the nation of Israel, “*Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.*” Verse 27 says, “**A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day.**” Verse 28 says, “**And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.**” You know what? **Whatever happens to us is based on those two things.** I feel bad that somebody has to go through something. I feel bad when a child of God has to go through some tough time because of sin. I feel bad when they get clobbered, they lose their marriage, they lose their kids. I feel terrible about that. But at the same time, it was not by God's design that you lost your kid. It was not by God's design your marriage ended in a divorce. At the end of the day, based on Deuteronomy 11:26-28, we all get what we deserve. **You do what is right. Even when the bad times come, God will get you through it. You do what is wrong and a curse comes into your life and nothing you are going to do is going to change that until you get clean before God and get back in bounds.** It is just that simple. What you get in life is based on the principles found in that passage. Good or bad. Your life is going to be a blessing if you love the book, stay with God, stay in bounds. Even the tough times will wind up being a blessing because all things work together for good. You do not and get out of bounds. It will be a curse.

I think of the story of Jonah when God wanted him to go to Nineveh, and he wanted to go someplace else because he did not want to go, and he convinced himself just like so many of God's people. He went down and found a boat exactly where he wanted to go. But it was not where God wanted him to go. The story says he goes down there and he finds the boat going to where he wanted to go. Then the Bible says, “*and he paid the fare thereof.*” You go your way; you are going to pay the tab for it. Just that simple.

I will help anybody I can. I will try to fix anything I can fix. That is my job. But I do not have a lot of sympathy for someone who knew better, who knew what the Bible says, who was trained in the Bible. You step outside the bounds and then your family, your world goes to pieces. I am sorry. I am sorry for you. I feel for you. **We get out of life what we deserve because God this day put before us a blessing and a curse. You get to choose.** I do not get to choose. I just get to

clean up your mess, but you get to choose. I will clean it up. Over in the corner of my office, I have got nine cases of Clorox bleach. I will clean it up for you.

4.) Guile

Number four, verse 2, “*in whose spirit there is no guile.*” Now, **guile will be a sly, cunning, deceptive, supplanter mindset that a person uses to get around the things of God.** The greatest example of this in my mind, and we covered this in Genesis, is Jacob. In fact, I had a question that came in this week about this. Jacob means schemer. In many ways, when we read that story, we find ourselves in that story. He is a picture of so many of us. He schemes all of his life. His life is one of complete guile.

- Genesis 25, he schemes to get the birthright and the blessing.
- Genesis 26, he schemes and lies to Abimelech.
- Genesis 28, he runs from God and he schemes Him.
- Genesis 29, he schemes to get a wife and gets the wrong wife.
- Genesis 30, he schemes Laban to get better cattle.
- Genesis 32, he schemes Esau.
- Then in Genesis 32, his scheming is over. God gets him alone face-to-face.

Having guile is simply putting your own plan together to get what you want out of something instead of doing what God wants you to do and getting what He wants you to have. That is true of everything in life. I have been in this business for a while. I have seen God's people scheme and justify it to get everything that they thought was the right way to do it when it was the wrong way to do it because they are out of bounds, they are violating the principles, and then they scratch their head in dejection because it did not work out.

There will be a time we will all have to contend with these four issues in our lives. We are human; we make mistakes. **The key is confessing to God, being honest before God, our transgressions, our sin, our iniquity, and our guile.**

VI. Confessing, Staying Clean, and Being Honest with God

Now, look at verse 6. Boy, if you do not get anything else I am saying today, you better get this one. Verse 6 says, “*pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found.*” I will tell you something, you keep up this deception, you keep up transgressing, sinning, iniquity, guile, do not stay clean to God, and **you will deceive yourself right out of any relationship with God. God will not depart from you; you will depart from Him.** You will block in your life everything that will leave no light from God coming in anymore. You have lied to yourself so much, you have schemed and manipulated to get what you want for so long, you push God in a box someplace. Now that box is lost in the warehouse of your bad choices. You walk around saying, “God, can You hear me? God, where are You? Why am I going through this?” You are going through this because you are stupid, and you violated the very principles, you transgressed the law of God, and then you have the guile, oh, that is the word, to ask God why. Why are my kids a mess? Why is my marriage a mess? Why is my life a mess? Look in the mirror. It is you.

Now look at this. When you confess these four things and stay clean to God and be honest with Him, now look at verses 6, 7, and 8. *“For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”*

Verse 6 says that everyone that is godly will pray unto Thee this. Men pray in their lives because they know through prayer, 1 John 1:9, God will forgive their sin. He will forgive their iniquity. He will forgive their transgressions. Through one confessed sin, he can get clean before God.

➤ The Floods of Great Waters

Then he says, when a man does that, *“surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.”* Now, the floods of great waters doctrinally will obviously be Israel in the tribulation period, but in my life and your life, inspirationally, you know what those floods of great waters mean. It is the emotional trauma that we all go through, through the issues of life that we fail. You do not lose your marriage and feel good about it. You do not lose your kids to the world and feel good about it. You do not just go through the tough times of an addiction and feel good about it. It is the flood of emotions that comes into your life and my life because of our transgression, because of our iniquity, because of our sin, that it is like the waves compassing us and rolling over us, suffocating us. Yet the Bible says that because of your staying clean and my staying clean, those waves will never come upon us.

I honestly have never understood why somebody can so clearly see the principles of God for a good, godly, clean, holy life where everything is a blessing of God and not a curse, and then they continually just do their own thing.

VII. God as Our Hiding Place

He says in verse 7, *“Thou art my hiding place.”* Now, doctrinally, again, that is Selah Petra, Psalms 31, Psalms 60, where God hides the nation of Israel in the rock city, a refuge of the Jew in the tribulation. But inspirationally, that is my life hidden in Christ. The Bible says that you are dead and your life is hidden in Christ. I am dead to the things of this world, and my life is hid with Christ. He is my hiding place.

➤ Anne Frank and The Ten Boom Family

If you ever go to the Netherlands, and I have been to Amsterdam probably 10 or 12 times, there are two different houses that you should see—historical references. In Amsterdam, you have the house of Anne Frank. Anne Frank was a Jewish girl. When the Nazis took over Holland and took over Amsterdam, the first thing they did was begin to round up all the Jews and send them to the concentration camps. Many of the Jews went into hiding. Anne Frank was one of those Jews. In fact, right down the street, there is a canal right in front, right down from Dam Square, and right down from the train station, there is this house up there, and they are all real high attached canal houses. It is the Anne Frank house. It is a museum today. You would go into that house, sign the

little book there, and then go up these steps. It seems like you are climbing Mount Everest, but you go up these steps to a room, and this is where she hid. They had taken bookcases, and had put them up against the wall, and behind those bookcases was a little room. For a couple of years, Anne Frank lived there, never going out on the street, and that was her hiding place. She wrote a diary called *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Some of you may have read it. I actually stood in the room where she was. I looked out the window at all she ever saw in the world for almost two years. But the Nazis found her, they sent her off to Auschwitz, and she died. She actually died about four weeks before the camp was liberated by the Americans. It is a shrine today and a memorial, but it has been taken over by an organization, and I am not fighting it, but it is to fight racism to the Jews. There is a book there that you can put your thoughts in and it's an ethnic Jew type thing, and not just to the Jews, but to any minority group. That is what it has turned into. That is right in Amsterdam. I would suggest you go to the Anne Frank house; it's worth the trip.

I got on the train at Central Station and went about 25 minutes to a little town called Haarlem. There you get off the train, beautiful little town, beautiful church there. You walk down those Cobblestone streets, and you come to the second house. This was the house of the Ten Boom family. The Ten Boom family were watchmakers, and you can take a tour of that house. The Ten Boom family was Christian, and they wanted to help the Jews because the Nazis were deporting the Jews and sending them off to concentration camps. They took their little watch business right on the corner and provided a hiding place. They had a signal that they put in the window, and depending on which way it was turned, it told if it was safe to enter. I took the train down to Haarlem late one night when it was dark. I wanted to just stand there, walk down that alley, and think what it must have been like. You can take a tour of the house that shows you where they were and where they hid the Jews. Somebody turned them in. The person who turned them in was the baker across the street. You know what? That bakery is still there. I wanted a bagel and a cup of coffee. I was not going to buy it there. I know what would happen. The guy would say, "Okay, can I see your passport?" And I would say, "Okay, yeah." And he would look at me and say, "Your papers are not in order." So, I went someplace else.

They arrested the whole family. The father died in police custody. Corrie Ten Boom and the rest of her family was sent to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp for women. Her whole family died in the concentration camp. She came out of that concentration camp. Years later, she hooked up with Billy Graham. As Billy Graham in the 50s and the 60s went all around the country, she went with him giving her testimony. She wrote a number of books, but there were two that always stuck with me. The first one was called *Tramp for the Lord*. That was the story of being with Billy Graham. You know the other book she wrote: *The Hiding Place*. You know what got her through Ravensbrück? The hiding place that she had in her heart that nobody could take from her.

➤ The Word of God in Our Heart is Our Hiding Place

That is what this hiding place is. It is what you have in your heart, what God has given you that nobody can take from you. For the child of God dealing with this ungodly mess of the world system, our hiding place will always be the Word of God, the one thing the world can never take from you. They can burn your house down. They can kill your spouse. They can take your kids.

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” They cannot get the Word in your heart. That is your hiding place.

VIII. The Joy of Singing About Our Deliverance

Then he says, “*thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.*” There it is. That is why Bible believing churches have a song service before they get into the preaching. That is why we sing the songs, "Some Golden Daybreak," "It Will Be Worth It All," "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul," "Hold the Fort for I Am Coming," "Coming Again," "Sound the Battle Cry," "Amazing Grace," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Love Lifted Me," "I Am Redeemed," and "Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart." The joy of singing about our deliverance.

Doctrinally, the song will be the song of Moses found in Deuteronomy 32, Revelation 14 and other places. But inspirationally, it will be the song that you sing.

You know what is missing from all the fake, phony religions in the world today? And there are a bunch of them, but do you know what is missing? The songs of deliverance. There are no songs of joy. I mean, have you ever been to the Roman Catholic Church and heard their song service? It sounds like a funeral. There is no joy there. It is dry, boring, and dead. That is all you've got. Long, drawn out funeral songs. No joy. I went to a Jehovah's church one time just to see what it was like years and years ago. Their song service is absolutely the most ridiculous thing you could ever imagine, but why wouldn't it be? They are not allowed to celebrate Christmas. They do not have any holidays. They do not have any birthdays. They do not have Easter. They do not have Halloween. What do you have to sing about? And Mormons, really? I went to a Mormon church one time. Let me tell you something. Listen, when your church teaches you can have more than one wife, you have nothing to sing about. Just study the guys who had more than one wife in the Bible. Church of Christ, water baptism for salvation. What do you sing? *Water fellowship, water joy divine, sinking from the everlasting arms.* Are you kidding me?

If you want to know what real Christianity is, if you want to know where the real joy is, you watch God's people who love God, who are saved, sing the songs of their deliverance. I sit up here while you're singing. I watch your faces. Some of you, if we turned the lights out, your face would be shining so much, we could light the whole place. You see, what comes out of your mouth and your songs for God is based on if you really appreciate His deliverance in your life. What does it mean to you? I see some people out there, you know, we are singing and you are talking to your guests, talking to your guy over here, talking to this girl over there. You are not even paying attention. No, I am not going to preach on that, but I am telling you.

IX. God's Instruction, Teaching, and Guidance

Look at verse 8. “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in **the way** which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*” Notice the way which we have covered a lot out of Proverbs 8 and Genesis 1. A couple of weeks ago we saw David ask for three things from the Lord. Now look at this.

When you do what is right with God and you stay clean, and you've got Him in your secret

place, and you are singing the songs in your heart of joy—now this is what God will do for you, three things.

➤ #1 – God will Instruct You

First of all, God will instruct a man. There are two key verses on this in the Bible. The first one is Philippians 2:5, and it says, “***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.***” That is the Word of God in you. Now look at this, 1 Corinthians 2:16. “*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*” You see, your instruction comes through the Word of God. So...God instructs you. You fall in love with that Book. This is what I am trying to do on Thursday nights with Genesis and every book in the Bible and what I am trying to do on Sunday mornings—get you to see that God gave you the perfect, preserved, absolute Word of God, paid for by the blood of all those men and women who died for it. If you are going to get instructed from the Lord, it’s only going to come through the Book. It’s only going to come through the Book.

➤ #2 – God will Teach You

Then he says, God will teach a man. Now God will teach you through the instructions that He will give you. Notice “*in the way that you should go.*” God will use every person in the Bible as He instructs you through the Word of God to teach you about life. I do not know if you are aware of this or not, but every sin that a man can fall into, every sin that a woman can fall into, every cause and effect of every issue that you and I are going to struggle with in life, every failure, every lack of faith is laid out in the lives of men and women found in the Word of God. You learn from that. God instructs you through the Word of God by looking at the mistakes that they made, showing you the end result, how they got into it, how they stayed into it, and what it did to their life, so you don’t have to go through it.

I have also learned that it isn’t just about the people in the Bible. You learn from watching the lives of other Christians. You do not judge them. The Bible says that “*he that is spiritual judgeth all things.*” You do not judge people, but you judge what people do to see if it is going to be compatible with what you want. You know my kids, Jamie and Kelly, are now in their 40s and 50s. When we were growing up, Barb and I not only followed the teachings of the Bible with our children, but I was a youth pastor back then. When I first came to Kansas City in 1976, I was hired as a youth pastor. I think I got to see every mistake every parent ever made with their kids. I had moms and dads who were Sunday school teachers or deacons at that point in time. They thought they were so spiritual and had everything going for them. And I had just spent all Saturday night out looking for their runaway kid. The Bible taught me to be a good parent, as good as I could be, but they taught me what a bad parent was.

I watched, never said anything. I watched the hypocrisy. I watched people who wanted to pretend that they were spiritual, who were so outside of God’s boundaries with their own kids. It was unbelievable. I learned some great lessons. I learned a great lesson number one, that there are no bad kids. You say, “Well, you do not know my kid.” Let me finish. No bad kids. You know what you’ve got? Bad parents. Bad parents. Those kids were entrusted to you. “*As arrows are in the*

hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” You launch those kids. Wherever target they hit in life today is where you launched them. It is just that simple.

➤ The Example of the Prodigal Son

One of the greatest examples in the Bible, and I don’t know why God’s people don’t get it, the parable of the prodigal son. When that boy left and he says, “I am leaving my father and I am going out here,” and the Bible says it is riotous living, and he winds up in a pig pen. He is a Jew. That is a violation of the law in itself. He got the boy back. Happy ending to that story. Let me tell you how he didn’t get him back. He did not chase after him. When he found out he was in a pig pen and didn’t have anything to eat, He didn’t send him his credit card. When he had no clothes to wear, he did not buy him a new pair of jeans or shirt. He did not try to love him back. You can never love a kid back who starts out using his parents in the first place because all he will continue to do is continue to use you. **What did the father do? Stood by the gate, prayed and trusted the principles.** He never got out of bounds.

You know what happened? One day the guy, I love this part, he is out there in a pig pen, and the Bible says the prodigal son, “*And when he came to himself,*” you as a parent cannot get them to that point. Only God can get them to that point. The more you stick your nose into God’s business with the Holy Spirit of God in them, you will never get them back. They will never come to the place as he said, *when he came to himself*, “What am I doing? I am with a bunch of pigs. I slept in pig crap last night. It smells; it stinks. I have mud all over me. I do not have a pillow. I laid my head on a fat pig belly last night to try to get some sleep. Back home my father’s servants live better than I do. They are well fed. He takes care of them.” You can never get your kid to come to their self. Only God can. The more you mess up the details, the farther you push them, and you have one guarantee in life, you will never get them back. Boundaries, boundaries. That prodigal son story illustrates one of the best principles found in the Bible taught through the Old Testament. You know what it is? Sometimes if you want to keep it, you have to give it away. You stay out of it. You let God bring that young man, in this story, to himself. Bad choices in parenting, and bad choices in parenting after the bad choices of parenting.

➤ #3 – God will Guide You

Now look at the third thing. God will guide a man. Now this will be the Holy Spirit of God putting the right people in your life. My story that proves the point will be Acts 8:26-40, where you have the story of Philip, who is an evangelist. God pulls him out of a revival and sends him to the backside of the desert for an old Ethiopian eunuch. He comes out there and God drops him off and he sees that guy sitting on the back of a chariot and he is reading something. He goes over to him, and he is reading Isaiah 53, which is the Old Testament account of Christ dying on the cross. What does he say to him? He says, (what a line opener for witnessing), “*Understandest thou what thou readest?*” And what was the answer? “*How can I, except some man should guide me?*” You know what your job is when you grow spiritually? It is to be a guide to others. It is to guide people who need the truth. The Holy Spirit of God will instruct you; He will teach you, but then He puts people in your life to guide you. Almost every one of you here.

I was thinking last night about how many of you came in through the athletic ministry over the years, or you come in through this, or you come in through that. The majority of you are growing great, you are on good levels, but if I can be honest with you, you only got there because somebody in your life cared enough about you to guide you. I am not talking about myself, I am talking about the men and the women God has put into your life, the little groups. I am getting calls and emails week after week from people across this country. The people who are out there are good people. They are in dry places where there is no church; they are struggling with things, and you know what they want? They just want somebody to guide them. We have got people across this country that so many of you guys and gals are working with the same way. You are guiding them through the tough times of their life. People working with people. Discipleship one, discipleship two, discipleship three, your lifelines. Paul gave some great advice in 1 Corinthians 11:1, he says, "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" You just make sure you are following the right person. The Holy Spirit of God will instruct you, teach you, but He will put people in your life to guide you.

X. Summary

➤ Don't Let Anybody Else Guide You with a Bit in Your Mouth

Now look at verses 9 and 10. He refers to a horse and a mule. Both are led around with a bit in their mouth. They do not have any understanding. You get a cavalry charge like "Charge of the Light Brigade" or even in World War I when they still used cavalry to attack German positions with machine guns lined up to cut you down. The idiots on the horseback would line up with cavalry yelling and screaming and machine guns ready to wipe you out. The horse does not know anything. He does not know that across that ridge there are 19 machine guns that are going to cut him to pieces. He has no understanding. He has to be led around with a bit in his mouth. He does not decide where he goes. **Do not be like that horse or that mule and let somebody else guide you with a bit in your mouth. Let the Holy Spirit of God guide you. Let Him lead you. Let Him put the people in your life who will guide you** without a bit in your mouth, without forcing you to do this. Simply through the love of the Word of God. You see what God did for you. You see what He wants to do. Your job is to stay clean and allow the Holy Spirit of God to do these things in your life. Stay in bounds. Watch your sin, your iniquity, no guile.

➤ Be Upright in Heart

Then he closes with a great verse in verse 11. "*Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are **upright in heart.***" You see, the key is going to be at the end of the day, you and me, to the best of our ability. Through 1 John 1:9, so understanding the iniquity and the sin and the transgression, the key to it all. The best that you can do every day of your life is to be upright in heart. Stay clean. Stay open. Stay honest. Let Him instruct you. Let Him teach you in the way. Allow Him to put people in your life who will guide you. But He can do all of that. If you do not follow it, just like Jacob, you are going to find your way to do it. You are going to throw out every Bible principle because your emotions are involved now. Your emotions override the clear principles of the Word of God. You are going to have some problems. God

knows in this life we can never be perfect. But in this life, He expects us to be honest with Him. Stay clean and honest before God. As I said, to the best of our ability, stay upright in our hearts with God.